



## GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS OF THE UNITED STATES

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### DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **BEACH ADVISORY**

The Department of Planning and Natural Resources (DPNR) announces that the Beach Water Quality Monitoring Program, which evaluates weekly water quality at popular swimming beaches throughout the Territory by sampling for Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity, which is a measure of water clarity, advises the public of the following:

DPNR performed water quality analysis at 17 designated beaches throughout the Territory during the week of December 21-25, 2015. The following beaches **meet water quality standards and are safe for swimming or fishing**:

#### **St. Croix**

Stoney Ground  
Protestant Cay  
Buccaneer  
Cramer Park  
New Fort (Ft. Louise  
Augusta)

Dorsch  
Frederiksted Public Beach  
Pelican Cove (Comorant)  
Shoy's  
Rainbow  
Cane Bay

Chenay Bay  
Gentle Winds  
Princess (Condo Row) A –  
Mill Harbour  
Halfpenny

The following beaches **do not meet water quality standards because they exceed the established Enterococci Bacteria threshold and therefore are not considered to be safe for swimming or fishing:**

**St. Croix**

Princess (Condo Row) B - Breezez

Grapetree Bay

**PLEASE NOTE:** *Beaches on St. Thomas and St. John were not sampled this week as the laboratory was closed early due to the holiday season.*

High levels of Enterococci Bacteria and Turbidity may be caused by runoff due to heavy rains, heavy marine vessel traffic, high wave activity near the shoreline, irresponsible recreational use, etc. Runoff can consist of sediment, pesticides, animal feces and oil & grease, all of which are harmful to the waters of the Territory.

DPNR will continue to monitor these popular swimming areas. DPNR also recommends that you use your own discretion when swimming or fishing at the designated beaches. If the waters appear muddy or murky or have foul odors, do not swim or fish. For additional information regarding water quality call the Division of Environmental Protection at 773-1082 in St. Croix.